

KOREAN WAR VETERAN 1ST LT.
LEON J. JACQUES, JR.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the late 1st Lt. Leon J. Jacques, Jr., of Milford, NH, for his heroic services to the United States of America during the Korean war.

Leon was a graduate of Saint Anselm College and the United States Military Academy at West Point who also attended the Ground General School at Fort Riley, KS and the United States Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, GA.

He was assigned to the 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division in Kumamoto, Japan. After the outbreak of war in Korea on June 25, 1950, Leon was committed to combat in Korea. During the first two weeks of combat, more than forty percent of the men fighting were killed, wounded, prisoners of war, or missing in action.

On July 12, 1950, Leon and his men were captured as prisoners of war and it was later learned that Leon had been killed by the enemy. He was in charge of several soldiers who were harassed by the enemy. Leon demanded that they stop and for making this statement, he was killed. According to a report received, "Lt. Jacques' complete disregard for his personal safety and valor in response to enemy aggression were in the finest tradition of military service and reflected great credit upon himself, the 21st Infantry Regiment and the United States Army."

Thanks to the generous efforts of Colonel Phil Day US Army (Ret), Leon has been honored with ten award medals including: Bronze Star Medal with "v" device, United Nations Service Medal, Presidential Unit Citation and the combat infantryman badge.

As the son of a World War II Naval aviator who was killed in a war related incident and a veteran of a Vietnam war, I empathize with the Jacques family. Leon is an American hero whose selfless dedication to his State and country has benefitted his fellow citizens with the blessings of freedom and liberty. It is truly an honor and a privilege to represent his family in the United States Senate.

RECOGNIZING THE HEROES OF
THE ALEUTIANS CAMPAIGN

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to share a story about a remarkable group of veterans that fought for our freedom over 50 years ago. During October 4-7, 2001, a small band of World War II veterans and their families gathered in Anchorage for what was probably their last reunion. They shared the common experience of having fought an air war in one of the most difficult theaters of operations during World War II, the Aleutian Islands.

For those of you who have not had the opportunity to visit the Aleutians,

let me tell you what you are missing. Some of the harshest and most unbearable weather exists in this region of my State. Some call the Aleutians the birth place of the winds. It is my honor to recognize these fine men who fought to protect our nation.

These courageous individuals are also the founders of today's Eleventh Air Force. Appropriately, those who spent their youth defending Alaska elected "Back to Our Roots," as their reunion theme.

The men and women of the Eleventh Air Force served their Nation well, helping drive the Japanese from the western Aleutian Islands of Attu and Kiska during the Aleutian Campaign. It was the only campaign fought on the North American continent during the war. It was also the first time since the War of 1812 that a foreign military force had occupied North American soil.

Later, the men of the Eleventh Air Force flew some of the war's longest missions against Japanese installations in the northern Kurile Islands from bases on Attu and Shemya Islands. During the Aleutian Campaign, the veterans of the Eleventh Air Force flew 297 missions and dropped 3,662 tons of bombs on Japanese installations on Attu and Kiska. One hundred and fourteen men were killed; another forty-two were reported missing in action and another forty-six died as a result of accidents.

Following the end of the campaign, the Eleventh Air Force was reduced in strength from a high of 16,526 in August 1943 to a low of 6,849 by the war's end. The two bomber squadrons that remained along with Navy air units flew bombing and reconnaissance missions against Japanese targets in the northern Kurile Islands. The military used the highly classified operation, code named Wedlock, which also involved submarine patrols and shore bombardment, to divert Japanese attention north and mislead them about U.S. strategy in the Pacific.

It succeeded in its objective. The Japanese increased their garrison in the northern Kuriles from 8,000 in 1943, to 41,000 in 1944. They maintained 400 aircraft there in anticipation that America was planning to invade Japan by a northern route.

During this time, Eleventh Air Force bombers flew 276 missions, losing 74 crew members killed in action and 11 taken prisoners of war, of which 3 died in captivity. Another 179 were interned in the Soviet Union—where they landed after experiencing difficulties returning to their home bases. They were among the 291 young American aircrews who temporarily wound up in Soviet hands as the result of the air war in the Pacific.

Unlike other World War II theaters of operations, the Aleutians has not been properly recognized. The men and

women who served on those wind swept and hauntingly beautiful islands have not been forgotten. Alaskans are grateful for what they did to defend our freedom and land. Their efforts, and those who served elsewhere in the territory, contributed immeasurably to the growth and development of my State. They helped provide the foundation that ultimately led to the achievement of statehood.

Those who fought for our Nation's values during a difficult time in the Aleutians and the North Pacific Theater are truly heroes. It is my honor to say thank you and recognize them on this Veterans Day.

VETERANS DAY, 2001

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, it is my privilege to rise and thank the men and women who have served in our Nation's armed forces. This Sunday, November 11, 2001, our country takes a moment to recognize the men and women who have made our country a free Nation for over 225 years.

Veterans Day is a day that is as diverse and as rich in history as the many battles that were fought defending our freedom. November 11, 1918 is the date most remembered as the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. This day began with the laying down of arms and blowing of whistles. Impromptu parades were held and shops closed for the day to honor veterans. 83 years ago November 11 became known as "Armistice Day."

For 16 peaceful years following World War I, the United States along with other countries such as Canada, Australia and Britain celebrated this day. A moment of silence at the allotted hour of 11AM was held to remember the sacrifices that men and women made in order to ensure that freedom reigns.

Sadly, as we all know, war is a part of our lives. Around every corner adversity and evil exists. However, Americans being steadfast and always determined to live life peacefully continued to observe a day of remembrance and appreciation on November 11.

In 1938 Congress passed a bill that November 11 "shall be dedicated to the cause of world peace and . . . hereafter celebrated and known as Armistice Day." But shortly thereafter World War II broke out. Over sixteen million—I repeat, over sixteen million—Americans took part in World War II. Veterans Day was officially recognized in 1954 when the late President Eisenhower signed a bill that proclaimed November 11 as Veterans Day.

We also pay tribute to those soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice. In 1921 an American soldier, whose name was "known but to God," was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. This soldier became the personification of dignity and reverence for America's veterans. In 1958, two more unidentified

fallen American soldiers from World War II and Korea were interred next to their comrade of World War I. These brave soldiers, and all those who have died on the battle field who have never returned home for a proper burial, are guarded day and night by men and women in the armed services.

Today America is facing a new kind of war, one that does not quickly assimilate with previous conflicts our soldiers have faced, a war that is being fought by men and women who, as thousands before them, have answered the call to duty to protect and defend our freedom.

Our military is engaged in conflict overseas with a vile and inhumane enemy, an enemy that lives in shadows, strikes at innocent civilians, and finds victory in terror. It is a new kind of war. But one thing remains the same. Our armed forces carry on the fight for freedom.

On September 11, our world changed. Once again, we are a nation at war. Once again, our troops are engaged in conflict overseas. And once again, they will prevail.

It is my sincere honor to thank all veterans who have served in our armed forces.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD A. LAURIE

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Edward Laurie of Enfield, NH, an exemplary public official who dedicated himself to serving the people of New Hampshire for more than 26 years. As chief of police for the city of Lebanon since 1991, he has brought to the office the professional skills and knowledge of law enforcement which has benefited the citizens of Lebanon and the entire State.

Edward began his career as a patrol officer in 1975, and was promoted through the ranks of the Lebanon Police Department serving positions including: police sergeant from 1984–1985, police lieutenant from 1985–1986, police captain from 1987–1991 and police chief from 1991–2001.

He was an active member of the law enforcement who participated in programs including: chairman of the New Hampshire Regional Drug Task Force, executive board member of the New Hampshire Attorney General's Drug Task Force, president of the New Hampshire Police Association, associate of the FBI National Academy, and member of the New England and Grafton County Chiefs of Police Associations.

Edward was active in the Lebanon community and provided dedicated service to area charities including the New Hampshire Special Olympics and Lebanon Lions and Kiwanis Clubs.

Throughout his career, Edwards has served the city of Lebanon and the State of New Hampshire with dedication and pride. The people of Lebanon owe a debt of gratitude to Edward for the contributions which he has made making the city and the State a safer and more pleasant environment in which to live.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent Edward Laurie in the United States Senate. I wish him and his family Godspeed in his retirement and in all of their future endeavors.●

VETERANS DAY, 2001

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, as we again approach Veterans Day, it is vital that we pause, more so than on any Veterans Day in recent memory, to give tribute to the more than 48 million heroic veterans who have served in our military since the start of the Republic and who have fought so that the freedom and safety of this great Nation would not be compromised. We owe our veterans our heartfelt gratitude for answering the call and serving us all in the United States Armed Forces.

Today, as it should be, military service is being held in high esteem. The events of September 11 have renewed America's sense of gratitude toward the men and women of the Armed Forces for the great sacrifices they make everyday on behalf of our Nation. America has been steadfast in its commitment to the world to be a beacon for freedom. Our military personnel have honored our commitment to the world, time after time, in every part of the globe.

At present, the members of our Armed Forces are fighting the terrorist regime responsible for the deaths of thousands of Americans on September 11th. We will win this fight. And once again, our men and women in uniform will honor our commitment to the world. What strikes me with enormous poignancy is the age of those who have answered the call to duty throughout our history. In this war, as in those of our past, we send our young to honor our commitments abroad and to protect our great Nation. They are the best of the best. Their motto might well be, in the words of Alexander Pope, "Act well your part, therein all honor lies."

As we observe Veterans Day, let us remember that we owe our veterans our gratitude and appreciation year round, and not merely on the day set aside for the commemoration of their service and sacrifice. It would be truly disgraceful if veterans were made to feel forgotten except for this one day per year. Indeed, our gratitude should be as steadfast as the great monuments that Americans have built in commemoration of the very service and sacrifices our veterans made. There should be no ambivalence in our atti-

tude toward those who serve in the United States Armed Forces.

I am proud to represent the State of West Virginia in the Senate. West Virginia has one of the highest veteran populations per capita of any State. The deep patriotism and loyalty to our country of the people of my State of West Virginia fills me with gratitude, and inspires me in my role as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. In that position, I am fortunate to represent not only the veterans of West Virginia, but veterans all over our country.

As Chairman, I have fought very hard for improvements in benefits and services to veterans. We have made significant strides this year in fulfilling the pledge of Abraham Lincoln, "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphans."

A critical need for veterans is long-term care. Our veteran population is aging rapidly and it is our responsibility to care for them. I am dedicated to this need, and in groundbreaking legislation, I was able to secure a significant expansion in the eligibility for and types of treatment that will soon be available to veterans.

It is my belief that the Montgomery GI Bill must be sufficient to recognize the commitment and sacrifices that individuals make to serve in the military. In keeping with that belief, the Committee has endorsed legislation under which the basic rate of the MGIB benefit will be raised over the next 3 years. In addition, accelerated payments of MGIB benefits will be authorized to accommodate the compressed schedule of courses that leads to employment in a high technology industry. We should make every effort to accommodate the educational needs of our veterans, and this change is an important step in doing so.

Additionally, the Committee endorsed legislation under which the maximum amount for the popular VA home loan guaranty will be increased. It will now be within the reach of veterans to buy homes in major metropolitan areas where home prices have skyrocketed. Many years have passed since a VA home loan guaranty increase, and high housing costs in certain areas had put homeownership beyond the reach of our veterans who live in those areas. This increase will add value to the existing benefit.

Today, and everyday, we should honor those who have worn the uniforms of our Nation. All those who served deserve our appreciation, our respect, and our compassion. They are indeed, the best of the best.●

TRIBUTE TO JESSICA CATANESE

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Jessica Catanese, of Groton, MA for being honored as the 2001 recipient of